The Faces of Homelessness:

A Study of Homelessness in South Carolina

OVERVIEW OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY THE

SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

USING RESULTS FROM THE 2007 HOMELESS COUNT

Today ...

- Overview of the report produced using results of the Homeless Count 2007

- Emphasis – Estimates

- Quick review of the website – where can you get the report and data tables?

- Lessons Learned

- Recommendations for next time

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- Section II – Overview
- Section III – Understanding Homelessness Diversity
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Lots of Data Tables … Most by county

- 2007 Homeless Count Compared to the Total Population and Persons Below Poverty – By County
- Summary Statistics for South Carolina from the 2007 Homeless Count (state level information only)
- Detailed Summary Statistics on the Homeless Population using HUD's Definition of Homelessness from the 2007 Homeless Count (state level information only)
- Detailed Statistics – Total Homeless – From the 2007 SC Homeless Count – By County
- Detailed Statistics – Homeless Population using HUD's Definition – From 2007 SC Homeless County – By County
- Detailed Statistics – Other Homeless – From 2007 SC Homeless County – By County
- 2007 Homeless Count Compared to other PIT Estimates and Annualized Estimates

And of Course ... Appendices

- Appendix A – South Carolina Council on Homelessness Membership

- Appendix B – Continua of Care

- Appendix C – Data Definitions

- Appendix D – Information on Homeless Education (from the SC Department of Education)

Data and Report is on the Website

The link to the 2007 Count :

http://www.schomeless.org/

From the Count itself

- The 2007 Homeless Count found a total of 6,759 homeless individuals on January 25th in South Carolina

- Those 6,759 individuals represent
  - 0.2% of the total population in the state and
  - 1.1% of the persons below poverty

- Of the 6,759 individuals who were found homeless,
  - 5,594 were identified as homeless using HUD's strict definition (over 80%)
  - leaving 1,165 identified as homeless through a broader definition.

So how does this compare to 2005 Count?

- 2007 Homeless Count found a total of 6,759
- 2005 Homeless Count found a total of 6,481

Should we compare the 2 Counts?   We think…No

- Methodologies used in the 2007 Count to the 2005 are different – care must be taken in comparisons.
- While it is thought that the 2007 Homeless Count was a "better" count (better organization, better methodologies, etc) – in truth – Difficult to know for sure.
- Variables as simple as the weather on the actual night of the count or the number of volunteers who actually come to help impact the count.
- Important to view the homeless count as a "moving target" - literally and figuratively.

More quick facts from the Count

Total Homeless	*100%*
Children Less than 18 years	19.7%
Adults	80.3%
Persons in Families	
with Dependent Children	31.0%
Individuals (Not in Families)	69.0%

More ...

Chronically Homeless	7.1%
Severely Mentally Ill	7.6%
Chronic Substance Abuse	14.9%
Veterans	7.6%
Persons with HIV/AIDS	1.2%
Victims of Domestic Violence	8.8%
Unaccompanied Youth	0.5%

Most of the data tables are by County but we learned …

- Over 50% of the homeless population was found in only five counties: Greenville, Richland, Horry, Georgetown, and Charleston
- Over 75% of the homeless population were in 11 counties
- Most of the homeless were found in counties with either a high level of effort Or a moderate to high level of effort
- Issues with our rural counties

Which is why – we use the word: Estimate

- The report emphasizes the huge challenges in counting the homeless
- It also distinguishes between a Point In Time (the January count) and a Annualized Estimate
- The Point in Time gives us 1 picture about the homeless population BUT
- The January 2007 PIT should be viewed as ONLY 1 Estimate

Why? Let me give 1 example

- Not only were we to help compile the data but we were also asked to derive other estimates

- One estimate we used was a percentage of the poverty population.

- When we compared that poverty derived estimate to the Homeless Count 2007 coupled with an estimate on the level of effort

GUESS WHAT?

We Saw …

- For the most part, we saw that when there was a high level of effort or even a moderate to high level of effort …

- The homeless count was somewhat in the ball park of the Poverty derived estimate

- But when there was a poor level of effort

- Well … our Homeless Count for 2007 was probably an undercount.

Other Estimates

Point in Time Estimates

- Homeless Count 2007 Point In Time - 6,759
- Estimated Poverty Point in Time – a range of 6,500 to 13,000

Annualized Estimates

- Poverty Annualized Estimate – 39,191
- Based on the prevalence of Homeless population from our count – 17,454

Where can I access this information?

Let me highlight briefly the Website where this information can be accessed

www.schomeless.org

http://www.schomeless.org

2007 Homeless Count

The Faces of Homelessness

About Us | 2007 Homeless Count | Events | Links | Archives

2007 Homeless Count > The Faces of Homelessness

The Faces of Homelessness: A Study of Homelessness in South Carolina

A Report Produced by the South Carolina Council on Homelessness Using Results from the 2007 Homeless Count

Download the Entire Report (PDF)

Acknowledgements

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Appendix A - South Carolina Council on Homelessness Membership

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Documents in PDF format require Adobe Reader, which is available as a free download.

2007 Homeless Count

A Study of Homelessness in South Carolina

2007 State and County Data Tables

2007 Count Survey Tools

State and County Data Tables

State and County Data Tables

South Carolina Summary Statistics

Download this table: Excel | CSV

	Total Homeless (includes individuals who were counted in the HUD definition and other Homeless identified)		Homeless Population using HUD's Defintion of Homelessness		Other Homeless	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Homeless	6,759	100.0	5,594	100.0	1,165	100.0
Children (Less than 18 years)	1,329	19.7	1,035	18.5	294	25.2
Adults	5,430	80.3	4,559	81.5	871	74.8
Number of Families With Dependent Children	491	N/A	346	N/A	145	N/A
Number of Persons in Families with Dependent Children	2,096	31.0	1,657	29.6	439	37.7
Number of Individuals Not in Families	4,663	69.0	3,937	70.4	726	62.3
Chronically Homeless	477	7.1	477	8.5	0	0.0
Severely Mentally Ill	517	7.6	411	7.3	106	9.1
Chronic Substance Abuse	1,005	14.9	829	14.8	176	15.1
Veterans	517	7.6	436	7.8	81	7.0
Persons With HIV/AIDS	79	1.2	49	0.9	30	2.6
Victims of Domestic Violence	594	8.8	443	7.9	151	13.0
Unaccompanied Youth	33	0.5	33	0.6	0	0.0

Lessons Learned / Recommendations

- **Regarding the use of HMIS information:**
  - Standardizing data extracts from HMIS;
  - Provide ORS with quarterly extracts;
  - Improve data quality; Standardize data definitions;
  - Reach a consensus on the management and/or use of the domestic violence data;
  - Stage a "dry run" using HMIS data prior to the 2009 Count to identify data issues;
- **Review the use of volunteers:**
  - Explore the possibility of using experienced interviewers;
  - If volunteers are used, mandate training and explore using a core of volunteers for longer periods of time
- **Review other methodologies to fulfill the HUD mandate for a Homeless Count:**
  - Is it possible to use estimation for a sample of counties;
  - Is it possible to use primarily HMIS data for the count?

Regarding the use of HMIS information:

- Homeless Count 2007 was the 1st time we incorporated extracts from HMIS with other count methodologies.
- So we learned some things
  - ❑ Standardizing data extracts from HMIS;
  - ❑ Provide ORS with quarterly extracts;
  - ❑ Improve data quality; Standardize data definitions;
  - ❑ Reach a consensus on the management and/or use of the domestic violence data;
  - ❑ Stage a "dry run" using HMIS day prior to the 2009 Count to identify data issues;

Review the use of volunteers

- Explore the possibility of using experienced interviewers;
  - We had some quality issues: handwriting, interpretation, etc.

- If volunteers are used, mandate training and explore using a core of volunteers for longer periods of time

Review other methodologies to fulfill the HUD mandate for a Homeless Count:

These are not really lessons learned – but questions to pose to the group:

○ Is it possible to use estimation for a sample of counties?

○ Is it possible to use primarily HMIS data for the count?

Not the End …

Whatever we do for the 2009 Homeless Count…

We need to plan now!